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(Original Signature of Member)

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

Welcoming the new state of Southern Sudan, encouraging Sudan and Southern Sudan to resolve separation issues and the future of the Abyei region, and urging the Governments of Sudan and Southern Sudan to abide by the principles of peace, democracy, and human rights.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Welcoming the new state of Southern Sudan, encouraging Sudan and Southern Sudan to resolve separation issues and the future of the Abyei region, and urging the Governments of Sudan and Southern Sudan to abide by the principles of peace, democracy, and human rights.

Whereas Sudan is geographically the largest country in Africa;

Whereas among Sudan's 36,900,000 population, 85 percent of southern Sudan's population and 46 percent of northern Sudan's population live below the poverty line;

Whereas the vast majority of northern Sudanese are Muslims while southern Sudanese are mainly Christians or practice traditional religions;

Whereas military regimes favoring Islamic-oriented governments have dominated national politics since Sudan's independence from Egypt and the United Kingdom in 1956;

Whereas in 1989, President Omar Al-Bashir seized power in a military coup;

Whereas Sudan has been ravaged by civil war intermittently for 4 decades;

Whereas the abrogation in 1983 of the 1972 Addis Ababa Agreement, which had ended the first phase of the civil war in the south, is considered a major factor triggering the civil war;

Whereas 20 years of conflict and famine have left an estimated 2,000,000 people dead and 4,000,000 displaced;

Whereas the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in January 2005, established a semi-autonomous government for southern Sudan and ended the conflict between the northern and southern parts of Sudan;

Whereas under the CPA, the 2 sides agreed on a 6-year transition period, after which southern Sudan would vote for secession or unity in a referendum;

Whereas 3,800,000 people were registered for the Southern Sudan referendum;

Whereas these southern Sudanese exercised their right of self determination, recognized in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, by par-

icipating in the Southern Sudan referendum held from January 9, 2011, to January 15, 2011;

Whereas on February 7, 2011, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) submitted the final results of the referendum to Sudan President Omar Al-Bashir;

Whereas 98.83 percent of southern Sudanese voted in favor of independence from northern Sudan;

Whereas Sudan President Omar Al-Bashir officially accepted the final results of the referendum on February 7, 2011;

Whereas the nation of Southern Sudan will become independent on July 9, 2011;

Whereas on February 7, 2011, the United States announced its intention to formally recognize Southern Sudan as an independent nation in July 2011;

Whereas the nation of Southern Sudan will be officially named the Republic of Southern Sudan;

Whereas a simultaneous referendum was supposed to be held in the oil rich Abyei, a region of contention between the northern and southern parts of Sudan, on whether to retain its current status or become part of Southern Sudan;

Whereas the referendum in Abyei has been postponed due to disagreements between the parties;

Whereas remaining issues relating to the implementation of the CPA must be resolved prior to conclusion of the transition period; and

Whereas the legal status of populations in the north and south, wealth sharing, resource management, especially oil revenues, division of assets and debt, currency, and

security arrangements must be agreed upon to prevent a potential spark of violence: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) congratulates the people of Southern Sudan
3 for exercising their right to self determination;

4 (2) welcomes the new nation of Southern
5 Sudan;

6 (3) urges both parties to work with the African
7 Union High Level Implementation Panel and its
8 Chairman President Thabo Mbeki to finalize the
9 separation arrangements, prior to the conclusion of
10 the transition period;

11 (4) calls for a peaceful separation of southern
12 Sudan from northern Sudan;

13 (5) condemns any form of violence as an instru-
14 ment to pursue political objectives;

15 (6) urges that the future status of the Abyei re-
16 gion be resolved fairly and in a transparent manner;

17 (7) calls on the Government of Southern Sudan
18 to create democratic institutions, plan elections,
19 build infrastructures, and ensure the protection and
20 well-being of its citizens;

21 (8) urges the Government of Sudan to put an
22 end to repression and violence in the region and
23 abide by the principles of democracy, peace, and
24 human rights;

1 (9) pledges that the United States will work
2 with the Governments of Sudan and Southern
3 Sudan to ensure a peaceful transition to independ-
4 ence;

5 (10) calls on the United States Government to
6 appoint an Ambassador to Southern Sudan; and

7 (11) encourages other nations to welcome the
8 new state of Southern Sudan and assist with the
9 transition process.